From: The Digital Clipping Service
To: Garcia Jr, John (SHF)
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The Digital Clipping Service

County News for August 27, 2018.

Building a vast new city on L.A.'s northern edges: A solution for region's housing crunch?

Up near the top of the Grapevine, where Los Angeles and Kern counties meet, sits the largest contiguous expanse of privately owned land in California. Sprawling grasslands sprout native and non-native species. Joshua trees with spiky branches clump together. At higher elevations, oak and pine forests blanket hillsides in a thick, green velvet, providing a home to deer, black bears and elk. Tejon Ranch, a 270,000-acre plot, is one of the last frontiers of relatively undeveloped space in the Los Angeles region. That may soon change. After years of planning and debate, as well as real estate busts and booms, the Centennial development is set to come before L.A. County's Regional Planning Commission for possible final consideration Wednesday. It will later be taken up by the Board of Supervisors. more

by , Los Angeles Times, 2018-08-27

"Clear the Shelters" event releases numbers of total adoptions – Santa Clarita Valley Signal

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control in partnership with NBC and Telemundo have released the final adoption numbers from their Clear the Shelter event. Across Los Angeles County, including the shelter in Castaic, 591 dogs, 342 cats and nine rabbits were adopted last Saturday, according to a release from the DACC. "We are grateful to NBC and Telemundo for leading the campaign to remind families of the wonderful pets at animal care centers in Los Angeles County," says DACC Director Marcia Mayeda. DACC offered $20 adoption fees for dogs and no cost adoptions for cats from Sunday, Aug. 12-19. more

by , , 2018-08-27

The Lebowski property tax break | CALmatters

Because of a ballot measure passed in 1986, California is the only state in the country where children get to inherit their parents' low property taxes on the homes they leave behind. That's why you may have heard that Oscar-winning actor Jeff Bridges is paying only $5,700 a year in property taxes on an oceanside Malibu home his parents bought in the 1950's. Like the vast majority of those who benefit from this inheritance tax break, Bridges doesn't live in the Malibu home–he and his siblings rent it out, for $15,000 a month. more

by , CalMatters, 2018-08-27

Raw Data: Rental Prices in Orange County – Mother Jones

Here's another chart that makes a point I didn't have room for in this morning's post on urbanization. It's an example of why I consider urbanization per se a modest problem compared to everything else on the progressive agenda. It's a little busy (sorry) but here it is: The blue line at the top shows median household nationwide. The dotted line shows what household income would look like if it had grown at a steady, modest annual rate of 1 percent. The red line at the bottom shows median rents in Orange County. I chose Orange County because it's not a huge outlier like San Francisco or New York, but it's still a very expensive place to live. more

by , , 2018-08-27

Is Los Angeles getting better or worse?

If you live in Los Angeles, change is a guaranteed part of the bargain. The Lakers rise and the Dodgers fall. Neighborhoods gentrify. World cuisines marry and food trucks spawn. Businesses flourish and disappear. People move here from places near and far, bringing fresh energy and presenting new challenges. But if you had to sum it all up,

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would you say Los Angeles is getting better or worse? Depends on whom you ask, how they live, what they expect and the city they remember. “L.A. is getting better,” said Jeff Hyland, a Beverly Hills real estate agent who grew up in Westwood and has watched Los Angeles become “a world-class metropolis.” Hyland once showed me a $35-million house the buyer intended to bulldoze and rebuild. “When everyone wants to live here,” he said, “it makes for a great real estate economy that trickles down to everyone who can still afford to own a house.” more

by , Los Angeles Times, 2018-08-27

Despite the settlement, Aliso Canyon is far from settled – Daily News

Recently, the California attorney general announced a tentative settlement in the state’s lawsuit against SoCal Gas for its role in the 2015 blowout at the Aliso Canyon storage facility. The incident was the largest disaster of its kind in U.S. history, continuing for more than four months, releasing over 100,000 metric tons of methane into the atmosphere and causing the closure of four local parks, two schools and the temporary relocation of nearly 20,000 individuals. People within the footprint of the leak reported adverse health effects including nausea, nosebleeds and headaches, along with other ailments. This tentative settlement is not final, as it still requires a judge’s approval and does not address claims of personal damages or harm to individuals affected by the leak. What this settlement does address are the utility’s violations of state environmental and public nuisance laws. While the city and county have limited jurisdictional and regulatory authority over the site, as elected officials representing those affected, we both have very strong interest and views regarding this issue. The settlement requires SoCal Gas to pay a total $119.5 million in penalties and programs to mitigate the impacts of the leak on the affected community as well as it tries to reduce environmental hazards experienced by populations beyond the immediate area. more

by , Los Angeles Daily News, 2018-08-27

Inflation and delays could add billions more to bullet train project costs

The California bullet train project has cost state taxpayers an average $3.1 million a day over the last year — a construction spending rate higher than that for the Bay Bridge, Boston’s Big Dig or any U.S. transportation project in recent history But still it’s not enough, planners say. In order to hit its 2033 deadline and $77-billion budget, the California High Speed Rail Authority will have to increase daily spending by up to nine times over the next four years or risk putting the already-delayed system further behind. Russell Fong, the authority’s chief financial officer, acknowledges the goals will be difficult to achieve. “It is a very aggressive spending rate,” Fong said. Still, officials said they are beginning to ramp up spending, and the estimates were officially adopted by the rail authority board in its 2018 business plan. But outside infrastructure experts question whether the $27-million-a-day outlay necessary under the plan would even be possible. “That burn rate is ludicrous,” said civil engineer James Moore, director of USC’s transportation engineering program. “It is so far outside standard experience that it doesn’t make sense to assume it will occur.” more

by , Los Angeles Times, 2018-08-27

California lawmakers are finally starting to see the light through the soot

Skies have been sooty over the state Capitol for weeks, soiled by Northern California wildfires. It’s a daily reminder for legislators and Gov. Jerry Brown about what their top priority should be. It’s to enact laws that vastly improve California’s ability to prevent wildfires, and to douse them before they roar out of control. Government’s No. 1 responsibility, after all, is public safety. From The Times news bureau on the 17th floor of an office building near the Capitol, one normally can clearly see intriguing Mount Diablo 54 miles to the southwest. But we haven’t spotted it since mid-July because a dirty blanket of smoke has covered everything between us and the San Francisco Bay Area. So far this year, wildfires have blackened 1.1 million acres in the state, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. A hellish Mendocino Complex fire burned across four counties and became the largest in state history, charring 422,000 acres. Wildfires this year have destroyed or damaged nearly 2,200 structures, mostly homes, and killed at least 12 people. And we haven’t even reached what traditionally has been California’s peak fire season, September and October, when devilish Santa Ana winds whip up blazes that scorch the Southland. more

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by , Los Angeles Times, 2018-08-27

Softer crime laws will loom large in Brown's legacy | CALmatters

Jerry Brown spent much of his first governorship four decades ago dodging the political fallout of California's rising crime rates. Republicans were hammering him and Democratic legislators for their supposed softness on crime and several lawmakers lost their seats. Alarmed, Brown and the Legislature reacted with a bunch of lock-'em-up laws. Brown won a second term in 1978, but lost his 1982 bid for the U.S. Senate and later saw three of his appointees to the state Supreme Court ousted for refusing to approve death penalties. more

by , CalMatters, 2018-08-27

OC Homeless Housing Bill Clears Legislature as Leading Advocate Leaves Job | Voice of OC

A bill to create a regional Orange County agency to finance 2,700 homes for homeless people cleared the state Legislature unanimously last week, on the same day one of the leading advocates who helped get the bill passed suddenly left her job. Heather Stratman, who officials and advocates say led the effort to get the bill passed, stepped down from her job as the chief executive of OC cities on Thursday, Aug. 23 – the same day the bill had its final, unanimous vote on the floor of the state Assembly. more

by , Voice of OC, 2018-08-27

Orange County Supes & Sheriff Finally Respond to Grand Jury Report on Potential EOC Safety Hazards

The Orange County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff's Department have finally responded to the OC Grand Jury's June 20 report on potential safety hazards at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located atop Loma Ridge. Unsurprisingly, both response letters say basically the same thing: thank you for your report but the EOC is fine as it is. more

by , , 2018-08-27

A San Diego CCA Would Shift Costs to Everyone Else in the County - Voice of San Diego

If you live outside San Diego, in places like Poway, National City or El Cajon, would you want to help pay for a new government-run energy program in the city of San Diego? Of course not. Well, that is a very real possibility. Roughly 2 million San Diego County residents may be forced to pay more for their electricity if the San Diego City Council decides to launch a government-energy program to serve its 1.4 million residents. more

by , Voice of San Diego, 2018-08-27

State Controller: Cannabis Industry Needs to Confront Stoned Driving Problem - Times of San Diego

California Controller Betty Yee, injured last month in an auto collision suspected to have been caused by a 25-year-old driver under the influence of marijuana, used sharp language last week to demand that the state's nascent cannabis industry "step up" and address pot-related traffic accidents. In an interview with CALmatters, Yee said pot growers and retailers "grousing" about taxes and regulation need to accept that the legalization of recreational weed carries social obligations, including a need to do something about the increased risk to public safety. more

by , Times of San Diego, 2018-08-27

San Diego County warns of possible tuberculosis exposures in local jails

Two confirmed cases of tuberculosis in local jails elevated the risk of exposure at three government buildings in July and early August, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency announced Friday. Citing a desire to protect patient privacy, public health officials declined to say much about the two cases, or where the chance of exposure was greatest, but asked anyone who may have been exposed to reach out

for more detailed information. “We do have more specific locating information, and if people call and tell us where they were, we can tell them if it overlaps,” said Dr. Susannah Graves, chief of the county’s Tuberculosis Control Program. Graves added that public health investigations have established no link between the two cases, which were detected during routine jail screenings. more

by , Los Angeles Times, 2018-08-27

San Diego universities brace for hyper-connected Generation Z - The San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego County’s major universities will begin fall classes facing intense pressure to grow and the need to adjust to a new generation of students who are far different than the millennials they’ve been serving. The schools also are caught up in the pointed discussions occurring nationally about whether universities are preserving free speech, and preparing students for a labor market that’s changing so fast one scholar called it “unknowable.” The five universities could add 36,000 students over the long-term, helping the state head off an emerging shortage of college graduates. But the largest change could involve the rapid flip in demographics. The nation’s colleges and universities have started to absorb the first generation of students whose lives have always been shaped by cell phones, the Internet and social media. The digital natives, informally known as Generation Z, are consumed by mobiles devices, apps and websites, using them upwards of six hours a day. Analysts say the “Zs” attention span may be as short as eight seconds, four seconds shorter than their predecessors. “Everybody’s on social media watching everybody else,” said Annika Wong, a freshman at Point Loma Nazarene University. “You feel a pressure to prove you’re having a good life. It’s FOMO: Fear of missing out.” more

by , San Diego Union-Tribune, 2018-08-27

Legal challenges to North County housing approvals filed, more expected - The San Diego Union-Tribune

Even as the first stage of the battle against large housing developments in the unincorporated parts of inland North County continue to play out, the second phase of the battle is beginning in earnest. Several lawsuit have been filed recently, including two on Friday, challenging the county Board of Supervisors’ approval last month of two developments in the Harmony Grove/Elfin Forest/Eden Valley areas just west of Escondido totaling 779 homes. In the coming months, three other larger North County developments will also go before the supervisors for approval. Each of those developers is asking for amendments to the county’s General Plan to build far more houses than are currently allowed under existing zoning. Most of those both in favor and opposed to the projects expect the supervisors — citing the county’s housing crisis — will approve those that remain. They include Newland Sierra, with plans for 2,135 homes on land just west of Interstate 15 about five miles north of downtown Escondido; Lilac Hills Ranch, which proposes 1,746 units in Valley Center just east of I-15; and Warner Ranch, with 780 units proposed just north of state Route 76 across the highway from the Pala Casino & Resort on non-reservation land. more

by , San Diego Union-Tribune, 2018-08-27

Federal regulators in San Diego muted after Newland Sierra developer lobbies D.C. power players - The San Diego Union-Tribune

Federal environmental regulators in San Diego had for several years raised concerns about a massive master-planned community proposed in the Merriam Mountains north of Escondido, dubbed Newland Sierra. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials in Carlsbad repeatedly told developers that the envisioned design would clog up a key wildlife corridor for everything from mountain lions to bobcats to golden eagles to gnatcatchers — potentially undermining a federally mandated blueprint, decades in the making, to protect species habitat in the region. However, those same local Fish and Wildlife regulators have been largely bypassed as ranking officials in Sacramento started shepherding the project last year through the permitting process. Hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake for the developers of Newland Sierra, whose nearly 800-acre footprint for proposed residential and commercial construction is located west of Interstate 15, roughly five miles north of downtown Escondido. According to recently obtained internal communications, Newland Real Estate Group conducted a lobbying blitz last year that courted members of Congress and officials within the Trump administration’s overhauled Interior Department. Emailed communications between U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff, developers and congressional offices were obtained

through a Freedom of Information Act request by the Endangered Habitats league and the Golden Door Spa, both which oppose the project. more

by , San Diego Union-Tribune, 2018-08-27

Heber's Imperial Center remains in receivership | Local News | ivpressonline.com

HEBER — Imperial County continues on as the landlord of sorts for Imperial Center as a lawsuit against its developer, Pacificland International Development Inc., continues in court. Pacificland defaulted on a $2 million loan in May, after which Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Jones granted the county a temporary order allowing it to take possession of assets at Imperial Center used as collateral for the loan. The deadline to make the first payment was April 1. more

by , Imperial Valley Press, 2018-08-27

Business briefly: Disney launches free education program for hourly employees – Press Enterprise

The Walt Disney Co. has launched a new education program that will pay full tuition for hourly workers who want to earn a college degree, finish a high school diploma or learn a new skill. As many as 80,000 hourly workers in the United States could be eligible for the program, which pays upfront tuition for employees taking online classes starting this fall. Disney initially will invest $50 million into the "Disney Aspire" program and up to $25 million a year after that, the company said. "We can't wait to see what paths our cast members take with Disney Aspire," the company said in a blog post. more

by , Riverside Press-Enterprise, 2018-08-27

Holy Fire 100 percent contained after burning for almost 20 days - Valley News

The nearly 23,000-acre Holy Fire in the Cleveland National Forest that burned for almost 20 days was fully contained today, according to U.S. Forest Service rangers. Firefighters spent the last few days extinguishing stubborn hot spots smoldering in the more rugged terrain along the rim of the burn zone. more

by , , 2018-08-27

New Tuolumne County Health Officer Dr. Bob Bernstein | myMotherLode.com

Mother Lode Views featured the newly appointed Tuolumne County Health Officer Dr. Bob Bernstein He spoke about his background, goals and top priority, which includes dealing with the opioid crisis hitting the nation and the county. Recently an Opioid Conference was held in the county featuring expert speakers on the issue and below are the presentations given by each speaker: more

by , My Mother Lode, 2018-08-27

Amazon facility potentially coming to Bakersfield - turnto23.com Bakersfield, CA

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. - Sources tell 23ABC that Amazon plans to open a facility in Bakersfield. Potentially brining 1,200 job opportunities to people in Kern County. Last year, Bakersfield was considered as a location for the company's second headquarters but was passed up. more

by , KERO - ABC - Bakersfield, 2018-08-27

Program rehabilitates lives for people in need - turnto23.com Bakersfield, CA

The Mission at Kern County provides meals, shelter and even an educational program for anyone who is looking get back on their feet. And for one man, it changed his life. "Compassion can run many different veins," said Kevin Codd. "It can be giving them a cold soda on a hot day. It can be saying 'Hi', giving them a hug, a handshake and it can be giving someone your time." more

by , KERO - ABC - Bakersfield, 2018-08-27

Local group helping the homeless get on their feet - turnto23.com Bakersfield, CA

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. - On April 27th, 2017, Kevin Cobb found himself without hope in the world or himself. That's when he found his way to The Mission at Kern County. Cobb said he met people who showed him love and gave him hope. He was able to work his way out of the lowest parts of his life and now works in the kitchen serving the same homeless population he worked his way out of. more

by , KERO - ABC - Bakersfield, 2018-08-27

Central Valley officials join push to end California oil production | News | bakersfield.com

Three Central Valley elected officials have added their names to a petition urging Gov. Jerry Brown to end oil and gas production in California — a move that, if successful, would heavily impact Kern's economy and county property tax revenues. Huron Mayor Rey Leon, San Joaquin City Councilman Jose Ornelas and Eric Payne, a trustee at State Center Community College District in Fresno County, joined 150 government officials statewide asking Brown to withhold petroleum permits, among other measures, as a way to reduce pollution and slow climate change. The petition was originally sent to the governor June 26. “The biggest impact of fossil fuels are in our communities with the lowest income families, and farm worker communities like mine with poor air quality and contamination from fracking (the well-stimulation technique also called hydraulic fracturing) and drilling,” Leon said in a news release Thursday. The group behind the petition, Elected Officials to Protect California, an offshoot of an anti-oil organization founded on the East Coast, has proposed ending oil and gas work within 2,500 feet of homes and other sensitive areas, as part of a transition to full reliance on renewable energy. more

by , Bakersfield Californian, 2018-08-27

EPA grant helps educate Tulare County youth on protected lands

A dense forest stretches for miles, populated by majestic, branching oak trees — interrupted only by the occasional meadow under a sky dotted by Red Tail Hawks. These diverse ecosystems were a staple of the Central Valley landscape as recently as 150 years ago — before development, agriculture and automobiles nearly wiped them out. One Tulare County nonprofit is working with a federal agency to ensure these lands don't go extinct. Protect and educate A new $80,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant will help The Sequoia Riverlands Trust educate Tulare County students about its six protected nature sites, which includes one of the last remaining Valley Oak woodlands in the world: the 344-acre Kaweah Oaks Preserve that stretches along Highway 198, just east of Visalia. Shielded from modernity, the preserve now faces a threat potentially just as devastating. more

by , Visalia Times-Delta, 2018-08-27

California Ag Alert Update: Water Board Sets November 7th Vote On River-Flows Plan

After two days of testimony before the State Water Resources Control Board on its proposed plan to increase flows on the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries, the board announced it would reconvene Nov. 7 for final changes and formal action. The plan would require "unimpaired flows" of 30 to 50 percent, averaging 40 percent, in the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers to address environmental objectives including salmon restoration. The hearings came the day after hundreds of Central Valley residents rallied outside the state Capitol to voice concerns about the impact of redirecting water in the rivers . more

by , Sierra Sun Times - Mariposa, 2018-08-27

Update: Donnell Fire Mandatory Evacuations Lifted, New Blaze Sparked In Neighboring Forest | myMotherLode.com

Update at 2:30 p.m.: Forest Service officials report that a second vegetation fire ignited near the Donnell Fire burning in the Stanislaus National Forest this afternoon. The new blaze, dubbed the “Cliff Fire,” broke out just ten miles east of the Donnell Fire in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest wilderness. Forest Fire officials tell Clarke Broadcasting that a helicopter with a repelling crew on board flew to the area, but once on scene discovered that the fire had extinguished itself. There were no details

regarding the size of that blaze. more

by , My Mother Lode, 2018-08-27

California cities support ICE to maintain law and order – Orange County Register

Immigration and Custom Enforcement ensures public safety and national security and its officers are welcomed and recognized in our cities. The enforcement of immigration law is a highly complex subject with many federal and local agencies working together without issue. Their roles of immigration enforcement and investigations are not clearly understood by many elected officials and the public. Unfortunately, because of this, ICE has become unjustly demonized in highly partisan politics. The cities must help their residents and business community understand the truth. more

by , Orange County Register, 2018-08-27

California Assembly Bill 448 is a tool that mitigates homelessness – Orange County Register

It has been a tumultuous past few months as the homelessness crisis in Orange County erupted before our eyes. The Santa Ana Riverbed closure in January was followed by the subsequent filing of two federal civil rights lawsuits against the county. Amidst the chaos, U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter appealed for the multiple stakeholders, including the county and 34 cities to work together and come to a pragmatic solution to ameliorate the homeless condition in the region. Orange County leaders in government, business and nonprofits looked at the situation and asked openly: Can we truly solve the homelessness epidemic in our communities permanently? In a word, yes, homelessness in our neighborhoods can finally be eradicated. Our cities and the county have crafted a solution that helps those most in need while restoring the confidence of our residents who simply want to enjoy their public spaces and parks without the feeling of insecurity or angst. The answer rests in the development of 2,700 units of permanent supportive housing as part of a comprehensive system of care that delivers wrap-around services to homeless individuals. more

by , Orange County Register, 2018-08-27

Some Ventura schools offering free meals to all students

No child should go hungry; that's the simple idea behind a program implemented in schools across Ventura County that open up free breakfast and lunch to every student on campus — no special form required. Schools in Santa Paula, Fillmore, Hueneme, Oxnard and Ventura will offer the meals to all students this year under a program designed to help students in low-income communities. The Community Eligibility Provision provides school nutrition programs an alternative method for claiming student meals in high poverty areas. Essentially, the provision is a way to reduce paperwork and other administrative burdens at the local level by simplifying procedures to get students the meals they need. more

by , Ventura County Star, 2018-08-27

State approves funding for Ventura County transportation projects

The California Transportation Commission has approved more than $2 billion in funding for about 250 transportation projects throughout the state, including several in Ventura County. A significant portion of the funding comes from Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, Caltrans said recently. The legislation is funded by increased gas taxes and new vehicle license fees. The Ventura County projects, at a total cost of nearly $21 million, are: more

by , Ventura County Star, 2018-08-27

Assistance grants available for fire, mudslide victims

The Ventura County Community Development Corp. has created an assistance program for residents of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties affected by the Thomas Fire and/or Montecito mudslides. The nonprofit community economic development organization said the funds come from an $800,000 commitment made by Wells Fargo to assist with economic recovery for those affected by the related disasters. more

by , Ventura County Star, 2018-08-27

Hib Halverson: Southern California Edison's Power Shutoff Protocol, Unplugged | Opinions - Noozhawk.com

A couple of weeks ago, out here in the wild lands of far western Goleta, many of us received letters from Southern California Edison explaining the utility's "Public Safety Power Shutoff Protocol." In short, it is going to preemptively shut off electricity "... as a last resort" during times of high fire danger. Is this evidence that the safety of our our electrical infrastructure is no better than that of a Third World country? Perhaps. More likely is that being a defendant in a class-action lawsuit related to the cause of the Thomas Fire has gotten the attention of SCE's risk management minions. Edison also might have realized that it's less expensive to shut off power during "sundowner" weather than it is to better maintain those of its facilities that are likely to become ignition sources. more

by , Noozhawk, 2018-08-27

Santa Barbara County supervisors to consider changing emergency dispatch operations | Local News | santamariatimes.com

Four options for improving emergency dispatch services will be considered by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors when it meets at 9 a.m. Tuesday in Santa Barbara. The board will also hear a financial status report for the 2017-18 fiscal year and a report on the Cycle California Coast bicycle tourism promotion for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Supervisors also will consider applying for a countywide hazard mitigation grant totaling more than $31.3 million, primarily for upgrading debris basins in the Montecito area. The staff also intends to seek direction on Local Coastal Program amendments governing short-term rentals and homestays after the Coastal Commission rejected the previously proposed changes. more

by , Santa Maria Times, 2018-08-27

County Supervisor Peter Adam Chimes In on Immigration

Supervisor Peter Adam has sponsored his own immigration resolution after abstaining from voting on supervisors Das Williams and Steve Lavagnino's August 14 resolution opposing the separation of families at the U.S.-Mexico border and affirming Santa Barbara County's solidarity with community members affected by national immigration policy. Adam's resolution takes a different tone, proclaiming support for "immigrants and refugees who seek opportunity or asylum in the United States according to established legal process." The resolution will be presented at next Tuesday's meeting. In December 2015, Adam Brothers Family Farms, co-owned by Adam, was forced to lay off roughly 300 fieldworkers following Homeland Security investigations of the farm property. Adam did not respond to calls for comment. more

by , Santa Barbara Independent, 2018-08-27

Air quality improves, temperatures stay mild

The air quality alert for San Luis Obispo County has expired as cleaner air has pushed into the region. In Santa Barbara County, the air pollution control board reports the air quality is moderate for Sunday. Marine layer clouds have cleared through most of the coastal areas allowing for mostly sunny skies through the region in the afternoon hours. more

by , KSBY Channel 6 - SLO Santa Barb County, 2018-08-27

Sedative use linked to majority of SLO County's drug deaths | The Tribune

As the epidemic of opioid addiction plagues the nation, a first-of-its kind report by the San Luis Obispo County Health Agency found that the use of sedatives — anti-anxiety medications, antihistamines and sleeping aids — is linked to the vast majority of local drug-related deaths. The report released last month examined concentrations of different types of legal and illegal drugs found in the systems of San Luis Obispo County residents who died over a three-year period and whose bodies were examined through toxicology screenings by the county Sheriff-Coroner's Office. Of the 6,699 deaths that occurred in the county between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2018, the Coroner's Office requested toxicological analysis in 732 of those cases to assist with determining the cause of death. more

by , San Luis Obispo Tribune, 2018-08-27

Live Oak: ‘Best soccer field in the entire county’ backed by $1 million pledge

LIVE OAK >> “Soccer is the sport of Live Oak,” said Stacey Kyle, the director of special projects for Live Oak School District. And Live Oak’s pastime is poised to get a significant boost thanks to a proposed $1.85 million renovation project that aims to replace a ramshackle field with safety issues with a new complex with a state-of-the-art field and amenities. “We’re gonna build the best soccer field in the entire county,” said Bill Simpkins, a Live Oak resident and philanthropist who pledged to donate $1 million to support the project. There’s no lack of demand for it as hundreds of kids and their parents descended on Shoreline Middle School in the heart of Live Oak to kick off the Mid County Soccer season. While surfing, skateboarding, biking and other team sports may compete for the attention of Live Oak athletes, the numbers back up Kyle’s assertion regarding soccer’s place atop the hierarchy. more

by , Santa Cruz Sentinel, 2018-08-27

Hastings, O’Brien-Rojo, Morrisson: Help yourself, others prevent overdoses

Saturday, Aug. 31, 2018 is International Overdose Awareness Day. A time of reflection and an opportunity to reduce stigma surrounding drug-related death. It is a day to recognize our friends, neighbors and community members affected by overdoses. No one wants to see someone suffer from pain. The panacea for this problem the past several years has been opioids, natural and synthetic forms of opium that are widely used as pain relievers. This has led to a national epidemic and everyday nationally, 46 people die. They come from all walks of life. Overdose deaths in Santa Cruz County are higher than state averages, although they are decreasing, down from 51 overdoses in 2016 to 41 overdoses in 2017, according to Dr. Stephany Fiore, Forensic-Pathologist for Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner’s office. Through a multi-pronged approach, aligned with the California Opioid Safety Network, Santa Cruz County is taking measures to ensure that we are doing all we can to save lives. • Prevent access to unused medications. The city’s and county have adopted Extended Producer Responsibility ordinances that provide disposal options through drop boxes or prepaid mail back envelopes at every pharmacy and police department in our county. The best prevention efforts are ones you can easily implement at home. Secure your medicines so only you have access, monitor your prescription, dispose of any unused medicine immediately, and do not share prescriptions. more

by , Santa Cruz Sentinel, 2018-08-27

Name Dropping: Bruce McPherson honored as an Ocean Hero

Congratulations to Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce McPherson, who has been recognized as one of the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s inaugural class of six “Ocean Heroes.” This new campaign recognizes local residents who exemplify Monterey Bay Aquarium’s mission of ocean conservation. McPherson is being recognized for his leadership in creating Monterey Bay Community Power, which is serving 96 percent of customers in 19 jurisdictions with new carbon-free energy options. “I’m absolutely humbled by this honor and even more thrilled that the Aquarium chose to highlight Monterey Bay Community Power,” Supervisor McPherson was quoted as saying. “Bringing community choice energy to our region was a monumental effort that required a historic amount of collaboration. We did it together on behalf of future generations, and I couldn’t be more pleased.” more

by , Santa Cruz Sentinel, 2018-08-27

Novato halts glyphosate use, joining Marin trend

The city of Novato has joined other Marin cities and local governments in eliminating the use of glyphosate, the key ingredient in the Roundup brand weed killer that puts users at a heightened risk of cancer. Novato’s move comes on the heels of a jury decision earlier this month that awarded $289.2 million to a former Benicia School District groundskeeper with terminal cancer after using the product. Glyphosate was recently added to the Environmental Health Hazard Assessment’s Proposition 65 list of suspected carcinogens. “The reality is, it’s going to put a burden on our public works department,” said Novato Mayor Josh Fryday, who announced last week that Novato is now “glyphosate-free.” more

by , Marin Independent Journal, 2018-08-27

Napa County Frustrated by Bureau of Reclamation Stalling Tactics at Lake Berryessa | Lake Berryessa News

As reported in the Napa Register and the Lake Berryessa News, there has been no progress in the last few months regarding the completion of a Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) between Reclamation and Napa County for County management of the lake Recreation Areas (resorts). Although the County is trying to put a positive spin on bad news, the latest Register article quotes County officials, and even Congressman Thompson, as remaining positive about the outcome. But note that the newly created deadline is "the end of the year". The original date for an MPA was January 2018 with the selection of new resort concessionaires to occur during this summer. The MPA date was then moved to April 2018 - now there is no proposed completion date. more

by , , 2018-08-27

New Sonoma County voting system has 'a lot of controls' to ensure security of elections

Sonoma County is preparing to replace its aging voting system next year, a highly anticipated technological upgrade expected to make ballot counting faster and more efficient while still keeping the entire process secure from would-be hackers. The new system will continue using paper ballots but will speed up a lot of the behind-the-scenes work, for example, making it easier for election staffers to send out mail-in ballots. It will also allow the county to start providing periodic updates on the vote count. The county will rely on its current 35-year-old system for the upcoming Nov. 6 election. But officials will roll out the new technology for use in a smaller local election as early as March, following the Board of Supervisors' vote last week to spend at least $2 million on the upgrade. "We've been getting by for years with a system that was harder and harder to keep operational," said Supervisor David Rabbitt, the board's vice chairman. "The old machines ... were being cannibalized because the parts were no longer available. Once you get to that point, you realize the clock is ticking." more

by , Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 2018-08-27

Study: Sonoma County getting older, more reliant on commuters

Sonoma County is heading into a period of powerful change: The rising number of senior citizens will outpace growth in working-age residents, increasing the county's reliance on workers who live in other parts of the Bay Area. A shortage of affordable housing is compounding the demographic shift, forcing more and more people to commute into the county every day to fill employers' need for workers. Those projections are addressed in a new, wide-ranging report from county economic development officials. The report, the 2018 Unabridged Sonoma County Indicators, is a virtual almanac of facts about the local economy, housing market, environment and health of residents. The report is one of many released in 2018 that offer a wealth of socioeconomic data on the county. The compilation of statistics comes in a year where officials have been studying both threats and opportunities for the county and the greater Bay Area. more

by , Sonoma Index-Tribune, 2018-08-27

Student enrollment declines across Sonoma County as families move away

Every Monday after lunch, students and staff at Hidden Valley Satellite School gathered for a "nifty kid" assembly, where they sang songs and talked about the life skill of the month, such as perseverance or kindness. It was a fun tradition that ended when the campus was destroyed in the October wildfires, and its 80 students were sent to the main campus on Bonita Vista Drive. "I do love the main campus, but that small little school was really special," said Marcia Seim Bossier, a reading interventionist teacher who spent nearly five years at the satellite school. Hidden Valley collectively saw the largest enrollment drop after the wildfires, within the Santa Rosa district. A total of 602 students were enrolled at the main and satellite campus last August. This month, school began with 537 students, currently all at the main campus, which even with the enrollment decline holds more students than it did before the fires thanks to the addition of three new portable classrooms. more

by , Sonoma Index-Tribune, 2018-08-27

Close to Home: A lasting legacy for Andy Lopez

After more than four years, millions of dollars in legal costs and unreconciled distrust, Sonoma County's leaders lost their challenge to the lawsuit filed by Andy Lopez's family. The federal lawsuit was filed against Sonoma County and Deputy Erick Gelhaus for the shooting of the family's 13-year-old son. The county now must decide whether it will go to trial or settle the suit. The county must also decide if the lesson here will finally bring change to Sonoma County's law enforcement culture. On two occasions, the editorial board of the Press Democrat has suggested the case be settled. While I support settlement, if this is all the county does, a grave injustice will have been committed. I believe the effort must involve owning the mistake and ensuring that this will never happen again. Owning the mistake includes finally reaching out to Andy's family and asking for forgiveness. This was never done. As for ensuring this sort of event doesn't happen again — that's a much larger project. While Andy's death led to the resignation of the incumbent sheriff and the first contested election for sheriff in more than 25 years, it has not led to any substantial reform of the Sheriff's Office. more

by , Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 2018-08-27

Napa County Supervisors to discuss commercial cannabis cultivation | Local News | napavalleyregister.com

Napa County supervisors will discuss Tuesday whether commercial cannabis grows should be allowed in rural areas. They will direct county staff whether to proceed with drafting a commercial cannabis cultivation ordinance. If the county moves forward, public hearings would be held before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in coming months. Included in a county report is a brief overview of efforts to establish state cannabis appellations, similar to wine appellations. CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, a division of the state Department of Food and Agriculture, is responsible for the process. Other counties emphasize the importance of having a sufficient tax on cannabis cultivation, the report said. Otherwise, the tax won't bring in enough money to reimburse the county for implementing and enforcing the cultivation program. more

by , Napa Valley Register, 2018-08-27

Spate of wildfires worries residents in Napa's Berryessa Highlands | Local News | napavalleyregister.com

LAKE BERRYESSA — People move to the rural outpost community of Berryessa Highlands to be near peaceful Lake Berryessa waters, not hillsides engulfed in threatening wildfires. Lately, wildfires have been at the forefront. The Atlas Fire in October and the County fire in July threatened the Highlands and its 350 homes. Then the fast-moving Steele fire in late July burned eight homes there. "We're sitting on a disaster waiting to happen, that's all there is," Debra Hesse said on a recent morning in her house on a steep Highlands hill. Such jitters — common in a county, region and state wracked by wildfires —are magnified in rural communities sitting amid brushy landscapes. A group of Highlands residents sees steps government can take to give them more peace of mind. more

by , Napa Valley Register, 2018-08-27

Lake County News,California | Award winning, independent local news - Supervisors to consider alternative office hours for county offices at courthouse

LAKEPORT, Calif. – Citing fiscal constraints, the county administrative officer is asking the Board of Supervisors this week to consider temporarily reducing public office hours for county offices in and around the Lake County Courthouse in Lakeport. The board will meet beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, in the board chambers on the first floor of the Lake County Courthouse, 255 N. Forbes St., Lakeport. The meeting can be watched live on Channel 8 and online. Accompanying board documents, the agenda and archived board meeting videos also are available County Administrative Officer Carol Huchingson is asking the board to set the alternative office hours. She notes in her written report for the meeting that the board is "very aware that the County's already dire financial condition continues to worsen, and thus far, we have been unsuccessful in our pursuit of new revenue streams. The rising Minimum Wage and employee salaries currently estimated at 75% of those of comparable counties, continued slow recovery of our property and transient occupancy tax bases and uncertainty surrounding federal geothermal royalties historically provided to Counties

are but a few examples of coming challenges." more

by , Lake County News, 2018-08-27

Lake County News,California | Award winning, independent local news - Legislators send letter to Verizon, demanding stop to practice of throttling data for first responders

In what are now substantiated reports that Verizon Wireless throttled data plans of firefighters while they were battling the Mendocino Complex Fires, legislators from across California are calling out the carrier and demanding formal action be taken. Legislators sent a letter to the chief executive officer of Verizon on Friday afternoon calling for answers and assurances that the safety of first responders, and communities that are threatened by these massive blazes, will not be put in jeopardy so the company can pad their bank accounts. more

by , Lake County News, 2018-08-27

County using Escobar Street for parking, temporary storage : Martinez News-Gazette

Contra Costa County Public Works will start using a section of the south side of Escobar Street northeast of Pine Street next week for temporary materials storage and parking, a statement from the department has said. "The use will only impact the parking spaces in that section of Escobar Street," the statement said. Pedestrians will still be able to use the street's sidewalk, it said. The use of the street is related to the construction of the new Contra Costa County Administration Building, which will replace the one at 651 Pine St. This use of South Escobar Street will begin Monday and should wrap up Sunday, Sept. 30, the statement said. more

by , Martinez Gazette, 2018-08-27

CA bill provides process to reduce sentences for marijuana possession

California may begin the process of systematically erasing and reducing sentences for marijuana possession through a bill now on Gov. Jerry Brown's desk for signing. Assemblymember Rob Bonta, D-Oakland, introduced AB 1793 in response to the 2016 passage of Proposition 64, which legalized recreational marijuana use for people 21 and older. The proposition also allowed for the "resentencing and destruction of records for prior marijuana convictions," according to the ballot measure. Prop. 64, however, did not specify a process for the retroactive erasure of cannabis convictions, a gap that AB 1793 seeks to address. more

by , Daily Cal, 2018-08-27

New West Nile warning in Contra Costa County

BYRON (KRON) - Another area of Contra Costa County has been added to the list of places with West Nile virus. KRON4's Lydia Pantazes reports Byron is now on that list. So far this year, 13 groups of mosquitoes, eight dead birds and 13 chickens from around Contra Costa County have tested positive. Mosquitoes with West Nile have also been found this year in Oakley, Martinez, Holland Tract, Discovery Bay and Quimby Island. more

by , , 2018-08-27

Solano supervisors to consider 'Tiny Shelter' homeless project

FAIRFIELD — Solano County supervisors will consider Tuesday a proposal Tuesday to place five Tuff Shed units in Vacaville to serve as temporary homeless shelters, and to provide health and social services, veterans assistance and work development for those who live there. The Tiny Shelter Pilot Program, based on a similar one implemented in Yuba County, would include a memorandum of understanding with Community Action NorthBay. "Solano County has been working with community partners on addressing the homeless population and the lack of adequate homeless shelter capacity in the county to properly house the 1,232 individuals who are currently homeless," a staff report to the board states. more

by , Fairfield Daily Republic, 2018-08-27

Woodland says it is dealing with pension problems as called for by Yolo County Grand Jury

Woodland has been working to identify and if possible correct or address the runaway costs in its pension and retiree health insurance coverage, according to a response to a recent Yolo County Grand Jury report. The report, “Looming Crisis of Yolo County City Pension and Retirement Medical Costs,” was issued in June and looked as the escalating costs for the cities of Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento and Winters, which are consuming increasing portions of their budgets, putting extreme pressure on other city service priorities. According to a Yolo County Grand Jury report released Woodland will see 14 percent of its general fund budget now going for pensions and retiree health benefits, rise to 18 percent by 2025. The other cities are expected to see similar increases, although the percentages vary. The Yolo County cities are not alone in seeing ever higher percentages of their general budgets going toward pensions. The problem exists in nearly every city across the state. more

by , Woodland Daily Democrat, 2018-08-27

Dog rescued from Mendocino Complex fires adopted by firefighter | The Sacramento Bee

A group of firefighters were battling the Mendocino Complex fires when they rescued a German shepherd. Now, one of the firefighters has adopted the dog, according to a Facebook post from the Mendocino County Animal Shelter. The firefighters, from Draper, Utah, found the dog “huddled under a tree” and took the pup, which they named Mendo, to Mendocino County Animal Care Services for medical treatment, according to the shelter. “It was clear from the start, if not found by his guardian, Draper City firefighter Patrick wanted to adopt him,” the shelter said in the post. After Mendo got a “clear bill of health,” he began his sojourn to his new home in Utah. more

by , Sacramento Bee, 2018-08-27

Future of Area Agency on Aging back before Solano supervisors

FAIRFIELD — A proposed agreement with Napa County on the successor to the Area Agency on Aging and a joint application to the state to form a new agency is back Tuesday before the Solano County Board of Supervisors. The matter had been continued from the last time the board met so Napa County’s full board would be available to consider the material. Also to be considered by both counties is a proposed budget for the first nine months. The agreement would make Napa County the administrator of the new agency. more

by , Fairfield Daily Republic, 2018-08-27

CA Legislature transforms bills as end of session looms | The Sacramento Bee

GUTTED LIKE A FISH It’s the final week of session and time for a staple of California politics, in which lawmakers replace the whole contents of bills with proposals on entirely new subjects. As the week begins, here are a couple of “gut and amends” worth highlighting: Assembly Bill 1184 used to be about increased reporting from the Air Resources Board to the Legislature. But now, with the stroke of a pen (and several erasers) it has magically transformed into a tax on something that has yet to exist: Autonomous vehicle ride sharing. This bill would authorize the city and county of San Francisco to impose a tax of up to 3.25 percent on each ride provided by an autonomous vehicle, whether it’s facilitated by a transportation company or an individual. San Francisco Assemblymen David Chiu and Phil Ting are listed as the remaining authors of the proposed amendments. Assembly Bill 2215 stuck with the same general topic, but took on a very new meaning. It originally set out to expand commercial adult-use cannabis activity. Now it authorizes the Veterinary Medical Board to revoke or suspend a veterinarian’s license if they discuss medicinal cannabis with a client while simultaneously working for a licensed organization selling pot. more

by , Sacramento Bee, 2018-08-27

El Dorado County, employee union reach impasse in wage talks | TahoeDailyTribune.com

EL DORADO COUNTY, Calif. — For the first time in nearly 15 years, El Dorado County and its largest union of employees have reached an impasse in their negotiations. The county's contract with the El Dorado County Employees Association Local No. 1

(EDCEA) is not up until 2020, but EDCEA director Jere Copeland said these negotiations focus specifically on wages. This much was evident earlier this month at the Board of Supervisors meeting, where EDCEA members showed up in bright red shirts and carried signs, a follow-up to the board meeting that about 80 members attended for the same purpose on June 26. One employee's sign claimed that the only raises the county has given since 2008 were 5 percent pay increases in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and $2,400 in one-time money given out in 2017. El Dorado County did not confirm those figures. more

by , Tahoe Daily Tribune, 2018-08-27

Solar continues to show strong industry growth: Byers Solar noted in national ranking | TheUnion.com

Byers Solar has been recognized as a 2018 Top Solar Contractor in the Northern California region. The Solar Power World Top Solar Contractors list includes Nevada County-based solar firm Byers Solar in Grass Valley — more than 10,600 megawatts of solar power were installed last year in the United States, and local installer Byers Solar has been recognized by Solar Power World magazine for its contributions to the industry. Byers Solar achieved a rank of 373 out of 450 solar companies on the magazine's 2018 Top Solar Contractors list of United States solar installers. The Top Solar Contractors list is developed by Solar Power World to recognize the work completed by solar contractors across the United States. more

by , Grass Valley Union, 2018-08-27

Nevada County prepares for annual tax delinquent land auction | TheUnion.com

Nevada County has almost 30 properties on the auction block for its annual tax delinquent property tax sale. All of them might not reach the bidding table. Delinquent property owners have until 5 p.m. Nov. 7 to pay the owed taxes. Payments must be in cash or cashier's check and made in full. The remaining properties then go to auction, which lasts from Nov. 8 through Nov. 12, said Tina Vernon, the county's treasurer-tax collector. "Nothing is set in stone at this time," Vernon said, adding that typically the county sells 10 to 12 properties each year through the auction. more

by , Grass Valley Union, 2018-08-27

Scott Young: Take action before tragedy strikes | TheUnion.com

To the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Consolidated Fire District, Fire Safe Council, PG&E and other agencies concerned with helping prevent wild fires in our beautiful Nevada County: I live on Nishinam Gulch Road, which connects to Yuba Crest, which in turn connects to a network of roads off McKitrick Ranch Road and the network of roads off Owl Creek. The reason I'm so specific about these roads has to do with their position as natural and obvious fire breaks for any fire sweeping up from the South Yuba canyon (much as the 49er Fire did back in the day.) These are alternate escape routes for all of the people down Owl Creek and along Jones Bar, in the event Jones Bar is closed by fires (as it nearly was last year in the Rough and Ready fire.) more

by , Grass Valley Union, 2018-08-27

From homeowner, to tenant, to evicted: A Bay Area housing saga

AYS BEFORE HIS MOTHER DIED, Saia Fetu'u made her a promise — he would take care of the house she had helped him buy for his family, honoring the 15 exhausting years she spent working and saving to scrape together the down payment. “Keep this house. Don’t let it go,” his mother, a 68-year-old Tongan immigrant, said as they ate her homemade Ota Ika — Fetu’u’s favorite raw fish dish, with a flavor similar to ceviche. It was a Friday evening in June 2006, and Fetu’u, a landscaper, had stopped by his mother’s house after a long day of cutting grass, trimming hedges and planting. “I said, ‘yeah Mom, I promise. I’ll do my best,’” Fetu’u recalled. It was the last conversation he had with his mother. She died in her sleep two days later. Fetu’u did his best to save the beloved three-bedroom home at the end of an East Palo Alto cul-de-sac. But it wasn’t enough. By 2011, he could no longer make the mortgage payments and was forced to sell the house, joining the multitude of Bay Area residents who lost their homes in the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis. But his story doesn’t end there. For the next seven years Fetu’u continued to live with his wife, mother-in-

law, son and three daughters in the house he once owned, renting it back from the company that bought it. He struggled to keep up as the rent rose from $2,500 to nearly $4,400. In July, his rent check bounced. more

by , , 2018-08-27

Childcare, preschool availability weighs on Bay Area parents

Heather Samuelson is a preschool teacher who isn't teaching anymore because it makes more economic sense to stay home than place her youngest child in daycare or preschool, assuming she could even find one. For the Brentwood mother of five, it's not the first time she has chosen the home option over sending her children to preschool, which these days cost more than some colleges. Across the state, millions of parents are wrestling with the same dilemma as they face soaring preschool tuition exacerbated by a shortage of enrollment slots. Almost half of California families with 3- or 4-year-olds cannot find preschool spaces for their children, regardless of whether they can afford to or must rely on subsidies, according to a recent study of preschool access by UC Berkeley and American Institutes for Research. For child care involving infants and toddlers under 3, the picture is even bleaker, as just one in eight families can find a licensed center. "Really good preschools are full — they are just packed and there are long waiting lists for top-notch preschools," Samuelson said. The other problem? "It's a big cost." more

by , San Jose Mercury News, 2018-08-27

Wildfires will push up your PG&E bill, no matter what - SFChronicle.com

For months, California legislators have debated whether and how to help electric utility companies deal with the costs of wildfires sparked by their equipment. But the debate — now entering its final, crucial week — has tended to obscure one unpleasant fact for utility customers: No matter what Sacramento decides, utility bills are likely to rise as a result of recent fires. They will rise regardless of whether the Legislature passes a bill, outlined Friday, that could allow Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to pass on to its customers the costs of settling some lawsuits arising from last fall's Wine Country fires. They will rise whether or not lawmakers next year loosen liability rules that make utilities financially responsible for any wildfires sparked by their equipment, even in the absence of negligence. more

by , San Francisco Chronicle, 2018-08-27

Alameda District Attorney delays officer shooting reports

OAKLAND — Whenever a police officer kills a civilian, the Alameda County District Attorney performs an in-depth investigation to determine if the shooting was justified, and if not, whether criminal charges should be filed. But one investigation of a fatal shooting on an unarmed man on New Year's Eve 2007 has languished for more than a decade. And another report, of a fatal shooting by the same rookie officer just months later, took six years to complete. The lapses raise serious questions about the DA's conduct in these cases, legal experts say, especially since a review shows that most of these reports are completed within two years. It took a public records request by this news organization for the DA's office to admit it hadn't finalized the report on the 10-year-old shooting. Spurred by the news organization's inquiry, the report finally was delivered to Oakland police Tuesday. It will be available to the public this week, a spokeswoman said. No law requires a district attorney to investigate killings by police, according to legal analyst and former Santa Clara prosecutor Steven Clark. But published reports of these investigations, as conducted by each of the Bay Area's DAs, provide the public a critical, independent glimpse of what occurred during the shootings. more

by , San Jose Mercury News, 2018-08-27

Service providers gathered for Community Resource Fair in McCloud

The McCloud Community Resource Fair introduced many of Siskiyou County's resource organizations that are available for people in need. Now that McCloud no longer has a Community Resource Center, Siskiyou Community Services Council Executive Director Lisa McCauley brought many of the services available to McCloud residents to Saturday's community fair. It was hosted by Siskiyou CSC and the McCloud Community Care Team with sponsorship from the Ford Family Foundation and PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging. Twenty-six booths lined the walkway at Hoo Hoo Park, and it

was designed to be fun as well as informative. more

by , Mount Shasta News, 2018-08-27

Shasta County thanks firefighters, first responders after Carr Fire

Up and down the streets of Redding, signs showing the community's appreciation to firefighters and first responders are affixed to fences and utility poles, hung with rope and sitting in yards. "WE LOVE OUR HEROES," "Thank you!!!" and "Forever Grateful," they read. Vienna Barnett, 23, made signs with her three younger sisters, including one that said: "You saved our house." The signs — now faded from the sun — are posted outside their home on Keswick Dam Road, a small token of how incredibly thankful her family remains. more

by , Redding Record Searchlight, 2018-08-27

How can Shasta County increase housing options for Carr Fire homeless?

When it comes to creating more housing for wildfire-ravaged Shasta County, big solutions could arrive in small packages. An ad-hoc group of local architects is mulling whether to recommend that tiny houses become temporary residences for people who are rebuilding homes that burned after the Carr Fire blasted the community late last month. The architect's group is also considering whether to suggest that current zoning restrictions be relaxed to make it easier for people to add accessory dwelling units, also known as in-law quarters or ADUs – small dwellings built on the same lot with a main house. Those could provide much-needed housing, too. more

by , Redding Record Searchlight, 2018-08-27

County youth reap the benefits of their hard work at the 2018 livestock auction - Plumas News

There is little doubt that for some of the hard working youth — who represent the Plumas and Sierra counties' 4-H and Future Farmers of America programs — the annual livestock auction can be bittersweet as their summer-long efforts and attachment to their respective animals comes to an end when they are auctioned off at the annual Junior Livestock Auction held Sunday, Aug. 12, the final day of this year's Plumas-Sierra County Fair. But when the stands are full of generous buyers — both individuals and business owners — who this year collectively spent an impressive $246,196 (not including price bumps) on 121 animals, it quickly seems to make it all worthwhile. more

by , Plumas County News, 2018-08-27

'We're all forever changed': Carr Fire may traumatize all of Redding

As a streak of smoke steadily grew just outside the tall, slanted windows Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Redding's Pilgrim Congregational Church, so did the nervous glances from the audience inside on a recent evening. The sight of smoke hasn't been sitting well with the people who turned out on this night. After all, this was a support group for victims of the Carr Fire — now California's sixth-most destructive ever. Then, someone figured it out. "It's a barbecue," a woman whispered with relief to the man on her right. That sort of hyper-vigilance after the trauma of a natural disaster is common, experts say. But when it's happening in a community already plagued by mental health disorders and substance abuse, some worry the trauma will make the area's collective suffering worse — and even trigger new episodes of depression or anxiety in people who don't have a history of mental illness. more

by , Redding Record Searchlight, 2018-08-27

Lack of signatures ends two recall bids

With deadlines to produce enough signatures for four separate recall elections over as of today, two are officially dead in the water. According to County Clerk/Recorder Alissia Northrup, petitioners did not produce the necessary voter signatures by the Aug. 20 deadline to continue recall elections for Supervisors Roger Gitlin and Bob Berkowitz. Northrup said the recall for Supervisor Lori Cowan will need to have the signatures turned in by Monday in order to continue. The deadline was today (Aug. 25). Deadlines for efforts to recall Mayor Pro Tem Heidi Kime are the same, but

signatures will need to be turned in to City Clerk Robin Patch. more

by , Del Norte Triplicate, 2018-08-27

Letter: New home in “quiet forest” has endless stream of homeless with no response;

As a new resident in your beautiful county it was my privilege to be able to purchase land in the Waldo Street area last year and come to live here in March of this year. Imagine my surprise when I discovered trains of homeless persons walking, bicycling and motoring down my unpaved road at all hours of the day and night, living in the woods surrounding my property and creating a sometimes terrifying environment for both myself and my neighbors — with incoherent screaming, knife fighting and constant activity — in what I had been told was a quiet forested area. more

by , Del Norte Triplicate, 2018-08-27

Thick smoke brings back unhealthy air quality in Redding | KRCR

REDDING, Calif. — Redding residents may have noticed thick smoke in the sky as they awoke Saturday morning. The air quality seemed to diminish overnight. As late as August 24, air quality scores were at or below 200, but by the next morning some areas were reporting highs in the upper 400s. According to the Purple Air website, air quality scores over 400 are high enough that "everyone may experience serious health effects". more

by , , 2018-08-27

HARDIN: A Community in Crisis | Lost Coast Outpost | Humboldt County

I listened to the “Community in Crisis” Southern Humboldt Town Hall Meeting held last Thursday at the Mateel on KMUD, which broadcasted the meeting live. Many people who the county believes grow cannabis but have not applied for permits have recently received “abatement letters.” These letters threaten landowners with $10,000 dollar a day fines if they do not remedy county code violations within 10 days. That’s $10,000 a day, per violation. The code violations range from growing marijuana without a permit to building code violations to illegal grading. Some of these violations are easier to remedy than others. Grading violations might take years to remedy. more

by , Lost Coast Outpost - Humboldt, 2018-08-27

Humboldt County officials seek unified approach to human trafficking as reports rise

Area officials say Humboldt County’s rural isolation and black market drug trade provide an environment in which human trafficking can thrive. But while local reports of the crime number in the hundreds — and have nearly tripled over a three-year period — the county has only one successful human trafficking conviction in its history. Humboldt County Deputy District Attorney Stacey Eads, who works primarily on sexual assault and child abuse cases, said it can be difficult to bring a human trafficking case to prosecution. “Ultimately, one of the biggest challenges is gaining the cooperation of survivors and victims that are being trafficked,” Eads said. Human trafficking survivor and McKinleyville resident Katrina Taylor said she was under the control of her pimp for seven years in California, but it took her another three years to recognize she was a victim of human trafficking. The issue, she says, can be explained by the definition of human trafficking, which includes force, coercion and control of the victims. more

by , Eureka Times-Standard, 2018-08-27

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